

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 GENEVA 05293 291552Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00
INRE-00 ACDE-00 /026 W
-----127135 291558Z /41

P R 291530Z JUN 77
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8708
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION NATO

S E C R E T GENEVA 5293

EXDIS USSALTTWO

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PARM
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR EARLE'S STATEMENT OF JUNE 29, 1977 (SALTTWO-1254)

THE FOLLOWING IS STATEMENT DELIVERED BY AMBASSADOR EARLE
AT THE SALT TWO MEETING OF JUNE 29, 1977.

STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR EARLE JUNE 29, 1977

MR. MINISTER:

I

TODAY I WILL DISCUSS THE AGREED STATEMENT CONCERNING THE
LOCATIONS OF THE URRUNT ICBM TEST RANGES OF EACH SIDE,
WHICH THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION PROPOSED IN MARCH, 1976,
AND WHICH HAS BEEN THE SUBJECT OF DISCUSSION ON SEVERAL
OCCASIONS SINCE THAT TIME. THIS IS A MATTER WHICH THE U.S.
DELEGATION BELIEVES SHOULD BE RESOLVED IN THE INTEREST OF
REACHING AN AGREEMENT WHICH IS COMPLETE AND UNAMBIGUOUS.

II

THE U.S. CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT AN AGREED STATEMENT RECORDING
THE LOCATIONS OF EACH SIDE'S ICBM TEST RANGES AND A COMMITMENT
TO INFORM THE OTHER SIDE OF ANY CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THOSE

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LOCATIONS WOULD BE ADVANTAGEOUS TO BOTH SIDES. IT WOULD SERVE
TO INCREASE MUTUAL CONFIDENCE CONCERNING THE UNDERTAKINGS IN
ARTICLE VII, AND WOULD ALSO HELP TO ENSURE THAT THE SIDES HAVE
THE SAME UNDERSTANDING OF THE TERM "TEST RANGE." IT WOULD
THUS ELIMINATE A POSSIBLE SOURCE OF AMBIGUOUS SITUATIONS OR
QUESTIONS CONCERNING COMPLIANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE
NEW AGREEMENT.

III

AN AGREED STATEMENT SUCH AS THE ONE WE HAVE PROPOSED IS ENTIRELY CONSISTENT WITH PARAGRAPH 1 OF ARTICLE XVI OF THE JOINT DRAFT TEXT, WHICH PROVIDES THAT THE PARTIES SHALL USE NATIONAL TECHNICAL MEANS OF VERIFICATION FOR PROVIDING ASSURANCE OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE NEW AGREEMENT. IN THIS CONNECTION, THE SOVIET DELEGATION STATED ON MARCH 17, 1976, THAT THE APPROACH REPRESENTED BY THE PROPOSED AGREED STATEMENT "...RUNS COUNTER TO THE PRINCIPLE OF VERIFICATION BY NATIONAL TECHNICAL MEANS..." THE RATIONALE FOR THAT ASSERTION IS NOT CLEAR TO THE U.S. DELEGATION.

FURTHER, WE DO NOT AGREE WITH THE CONTENTION THAT THE ABSENCE OF A STATEMENT IDENTIFYING THE LOCATIONS OF ICBM TEST RANGES IN CONNECTION WITH THE INTERIM AGREEMENT MEANS THAT THERE ARE NO GROUNDS NOW FOR INCLUDING SUCH A STATEMENT IN CONNECTION WITH THE NEW AGREEMENT.

IN THAT SAME STATEMENT OF MARCH 17, 1976, THE SOVIET DELEGATION ALSO EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT ANY AMBIGUITIES PERCEIVED BY EITHER SIDE, WITH RESPECT TO TEST RANGES FOR EXAMPLE, COULD BE CONSIDERED BY THE STANDING CONSULTATIVE COMMISSION. THE U.S. BELIEVES, AS I INDICATED EARLIER, THAT BOTH SIDES SHOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT NOW, WHILE WORKING OUT THE AGREEMENT, TO REDUCE THE POSSIBILITIES THAT SUCH AMBIGUITIES WILL ARISE.

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MR. MINISTER, THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION REAFFIRMS ITS PROPOSAL FOR AN AGREED STATEMENT CONCERNING THE LOCATIONS OF ICBM TEST RANGES. EARLE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMBASSADORS, MEETINGS, SALT (ARMS CONTROL), ARMS CONTROL MEETINGS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, ICBM, MISSILES, TEST RANGES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 29-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977GENEVA05293
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770232-0431
Format: TEL
From: GENEVA JOINT USSALTTWO
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977068/aaaaagvi.tel
Line Count: 97
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a0063a83-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2236358
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMBASSADOR EARLE'S STATEMENT OF JUNE 29, 1977 (SALTTWO-1254) THE FOLLOWING IS STATEMENT DELIVERED BY AMBASSADOR EARLE AT THE SALT TWO MEETING OF JUN E 29, 1977.
TAGS: PARM
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a0063a83-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

